

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (INGERSOLL, ROBERT S)

SUBJECT: SPECIAL SUMMARY NUMBER 11: TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY
FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

1. PORTUGAL: SOCIALISTS AND PPD AGREE TO JOIN NEW
GOVERNMENT.

PPD LEADER FRANCISCO BALSEMAO TOLD EMBASSY LISBON
SEPTEMBER 11 THAT THE PPD AND THE PS HAD AGREED ON
COMMON CONDITIONS FOR JOINING THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THEIR
DEMANDS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY COSTA GOMES, AZEVEDO, AND
ANTUNES. REGARDING COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW
GOVERNMENT:

--BALSEMAO EXPECTS THE PCP TO AGREE TO JOIN, AFTER A
STIFF FIGHT; IF THE COMMUNISTS DECLINE TO PARTICIPATE,
THE PRESIDENT WILL GO AHEAD WITHOUT THEM.

--CUNHAL INSISTS THAT THE PCP WILL NOT PARTICIPATE,
BUT THAT PCP MEMBERS COULD JOIN "AS INDIVIDUALS."

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EMBASSY COMMENT: A KEY UNSOLVED PROBLEM IS THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE MILITARY AND THE CABINET IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT, WHICH WILL AFFECT THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO TURN THE ECONOMY AROUND. IF THE MILITARY DECIDE NOT TO GET INTO THE KITCHEN AND TAKE SOME OF THE HEAT, THE NEW GOVERNMENT COULD BE AS INEFFECTUAL AS THE GONCALVES REGIME.

2. SPINOLA DENIES PLANNING AN INVASION OF PORTUGAL

IN AN INTERVIEW ON FRENCH TELEVISION SEPTEMBER 12
GENERAL SPINOLA STATED:

--HE HAS NO INTENTION OF RETURNING TO PORTUGAL AT THE
HEAD OF AN ARMY.

--HIS RETURN TO PORTUGAL "WILL DEPEND ON THE WILL OF THE
PORTUGUESE PEOPLE IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND NOT ON SOME
RULER OR OTHER WHO FINDS HIMSELF IN POWER TODAY."

--THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES SHOULD RETURN TO THEIR
BARRACKS AND RELINQUISH POWER TO THE ELECTED REPRESENTA-
TIVES OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE, SPECIFICALLY TO THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY CHOSEN LAST APRIL.

--GONCALVES' DEPARTURE IS "ONLY AN EPISODE" IN THE
PATTERN OF CONTRADICTIONS INVOLVING THE PRESENT REGIME
AND DOES NOT CHANGE THE BASIC PROBLEM.

3. LAOS: PGNU TO TURN OVER NEW LEAF?

AT A MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 12 LAO MFA DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL
AFFAIRS VONGSAPHAY TOLD CHARGE CORCORAN HE THOUGHT THE
TIME HAD COME TO START SORTING OUT THE VARIOUS DIFFICUL-
TIES INVOLVING COMPOUNDS AND THEIR CONTENTS IN A FRIENDLY
WAY, WITHOUT FURTHER FRUITLESS EXCHANGES OF TOUGH COM-
MUNICATIONS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE NO INDICATION THE PGNU IS
PREPARED TO GIVE A GREAT DEAL, WE CONSIDER THIS APPROACH
A POSITIVE SIGN THAT IT WANTS TO START CLEARING AWAY
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THE TANGLED MESS RESULTING FROM THEIR ACTIONS AGAINST
OUR INSTALLATIONS AND PAVING THE WAY FOR MORE NORMAL
RELATIONS.

4. ALGERIA WEIGHS IN AGAINST THE SINAI ACCORDS

CITING THE RESUMPTION OF US-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS ON
ARMAMENTS, THE OFFICIAL ALGERIAN NEWS AGENCY APS LOOSED

ITS FIRST BLAST AT THE SINAI AGREEMENT SEPTEMBER 12, EMBASSY ALGIERS REPORTS. APS PREDICTED A NEW FLOOD OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS FOR ISRAEL AND ADDED:

--THROUGH THEIR ACQUISITION OF NEW WEAPONS, THE ISRAELIS HAVE GAINED AN ENORMOUSLY STRENGTHENED MILITARY POSITION IN EXCHANGE FOR A RETREAT OF A FEW KILOMETERS.

--THE ARABS ARE MORE THAN EVER THE "BIG LOSERS" IN DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS.

--US TECHNICIANS IN THE BUFFER ZONE REPRESENT THE FIRST STEP IN A VIETNAM-LIKE INVOLVEMENT.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: GIVEN ALGERIA'S CLOSE TIES WITH THE PLO THE ATTACK WAS A LONG TIME COMING. THE APS COMMENTARY:

--FOCUSES CRITICISM ON THE ARMS TALKS RATHER THAN THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT ITSELF;

--AVOIDS INFLAMMATORY RHETORIC AND DOES NOT DIRECTLY CRITICIZE EGYPT.

5. ALGERIAN PERSPECTIVES ON SYRIA AND GOLAN

THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA, WHO THE EMBASSY BELIEVES HAS THE BEST CONNECTIONS WITH SYRIAN LEADERS OF ANY ARAB DIPLOMAT, TOLD AMBASSADOR MURPHY THE SYRIANS:

--HOPE FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ON GOLAN BUT ARE PESSIMISTIC CONCERNING THE OUTCOME.

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--WILL SEEK TO ACHIEVE SOME GAIN FROM THE US FOR THE PALESTINIANS, SUCH AS A REFERENCE TO "PALESTINIAN RIGHTS."

--MAINTAIN EVEN IN PRIVATE, THAT THE NEXT STEP ON GOLAN MUST INVOLVE RAPID AND SIGNIFICANT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL ON THE GROUND.

6. SOVIETS TO PARTICIPATE IN ANGOLA AIRLIFT

THE PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCED THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS PLACING TWO AIRCRAFT AND ONE SHIP AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE GOP FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF REFUGEES. THE SOVIETS ARE ALSO WILLING, THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAYS, TO PROVIDE FOOD AND MEDICINE. TWO SOVIET TECHNICIANS ARE EXPECTED TO VISIT PORTUGAL TO DISCUSS THE SOVIET ASSISTANCE.

7. EC-9: AGREEMENT ON CSCE FOLLOW-UP?

A DUTCH MFA OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY THE HAGUE OF GON SATISFACTION THAT , DESPITE FRENCH RESISTANCE, IT HAS SUCCEEDED IN HAVING THE EC-9 AGREE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CSCE FOLLOW-UP MACHINERY. THE OFFICIAL ELABORATED:

--JUST BEFORE HELSINKI THE DUTCH CIRCULATED SUGGESTIONS STRESSING THE NEED FOR POOLED EFFORTS IN INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS SO AS TO BE IN A POSITION TO FACE THE SOVIETS AND EAST EUROPEANS IN BELGRADE IN 1977.

--AT THE ROME POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING, IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT EIGHT OF THE EC-9 AGREED, AND THE FRENCH IN THE END RELUCTANTLY CAME AROUND TO THE DUTCH VIEWPOINT.

8. MADEIRANS TAKE STEP TOWARD INDEPENDENCE

EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS THAT THE MADEIRAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT FLAMA HAS ISSUED A LIST OF PERSONS OPPOSING INDEPENDENCE WHO MUST LEAVE THE ISLANDS BY SEPTEMBER 17 OR BE EXPELLED. THE LIST INCLUDES THE LOCAL CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY, ALL CONTINENTAL OFFICERS SERVING THERE, SEVERAL "PROGRESSIVE" CIVIL OFFICIALS, AND CERTAIN LABOR LEADERS AND PRIVATE CITIZENS.

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EMBASSY COMMENT: IT IS UNLIKELY THAT MOST OF THOSE DESIGNATED FOR EXPULSION WILL REMAIN IN MADEIRA. THEREFORE, IF FLAMA IS PREPARED TO CARRY OUT ITS THREAT, SEPTEMBER 18 MAY MARK THE OPENING OF A NEW PHASE IN MADEIRAN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN INDEPENDENCE. FLAMA'S ACTIVITIES, AND THE GOP'S REACTION TO THEM, ARE CERTAIN TO BE CLOSELY WATCHED IN THE AZORES. KISSINGER

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